

MAY IS

# VOLCANO AWARENESS MONTH

## IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

The catastrophic eruptions of Mount St. Helens in May 1980 are a reminder that Cascade volcanoes hold potential to disrupt our communities. Eruptions and lahars at Mount St. Helens took the lives of 57 people and caused billions of dollars in property damage.

Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, most generations of Washingtonians have witnessed volcanic eruptions from one or more of the state's five magnificent Cascade volcanoes.

## What activity is most likely at the volcano closest to you?

**Mount Baker**, located in Whatcom County, erupted most recently in the mid-1800s. River valleys are prone to landslides and lahars (volcanic mudflows). Small steam plumes near the summit are observed frequently.

**Glacier Peak** is located in Snohomish County. The volcano last erupted in the 18th or 19th century. Large explosive eruptions in the past spewed ash to the east into Montana. Lahars threaten river valleys to the west.

**Mount Rainier**, located in Pierce County, produced small eruptions in the 19th century. Numerous large landslides flowed down the volcano's flanks into river valleys over the past 6,000 years. More than 150,000 people live on lahar deposits in river valleys around the volcano.

**Mount St. Helens** is located in Skamania County. It is one of the most explosive and active volcanoes in the Cascades. The eruption on May 18, 1980, was the most destructive volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

**Mount Adams**, located in Yakima County, is referred to as the "quiet giant." Mount Adams produces lava flows, and is also prone to large landslides and lahars in the river valleys to the south, west, and north.

### What you can do...

**Learn:** Learn about volcano hazards that could affect your community, and determine whether you live, work or go to school in a volcano hazard zone.

**Inquire:** Ask public officials how they advise you to respond.

**Plan:** Plan how you and your family will respond when a hazardous event occurs.

### Website addresses:



Washington Military Department,  
Emergency Management Division  
[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)



Cascades Volcano Observatory Volcano Hazards Program  
<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/> <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/>



Mount Rainier National Park  
[www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)

Explanation	
	Proximal hazard zone
	Distal lahar hazard zone
	Lava-flow hazard zone for volcanic fields in southern Washington and Northern Oregon

## Volcano Hazard Zones for Western Washington and Northern Oregon

